

Message

---

**From:** Bielenberg, Ben [Bielenberg.Ben@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/20/2021 1:01:05 AM  
**To:** Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: RICT Alert - Devolution Preparedness

Thanks. Worked closely with OCFO for a long time on their operations and the devolution plan, so some of the terminology is familiar, but certainly the OLEM responsibilities are new. If you feel like things are headed south, please let me know where you need me to jump in tomorrow.

BB

On Jan 19, 2021, at 5:38 PM, Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Ben...Following up on our COGCON (Continuity of Government Condition) discussion today. Here is the devolution plan which is developed by HQ on how/when/why the Agency would shift (devolve) to Region 8 if HQ were not able to continue operating.

We also have a separate plan for devolution between Regions 8, 9 and 10, (8 devolves to 10, 10 to 9 and 9 to 8). If HQ ever devolved to Region 8, we would need support for the day-to-day region 8 functions and would most likely devolve some or all of those to Region 10 in that situation.

Anyhow...pages 15 -16 have some good charts that show the different COGCON levels and what they mean and the difference between COOP and devolution.

Betsy

---

**From:** Rothery, Deirdre <Rothery.Deirdre@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:30 PM  
**To:** Artemis, Tina <Artemis.Tina@epa.gov>; Atencio, Kathie <Atencio.Kathie@epa.gov>; Bohan, Suzanne <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>; Buhl, Rick <Buhl.Rick@epa.gov>; Cristiano, Gina <Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov>; Daly, Carl <Daly.Carl@epa.gov>; Davis, Patrick <davis.patrick@epa.gov>; Dorian, David <Dorian.David.l@epa.gov>; Garcia, Bert <Garcia.Bert@epa.gov>; Kortuem, Patrice <Kortuem.Patrice@epa.gov>; McIntosh, Karen <McIntosh.Karen@epa.gov>; Morales, Monica <Morales.Monica@epa.gov>; Morlock, Nancy <morlock.nancy@epa.gov>; Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Myers, Craig <Myers.Craig@epa.gov>; OBrien, Wendy <OBrien.Wendy@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Darcy <oconnor.darcy@epa.gov>; Rothery, Deirdre <Rothery.Deirdre@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Schefski, Kenneth <Schefski.Kenneth@epa.gov>; Sethuraman, Jag <Sethuraman.Jag@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Smith, Mark A. <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>; Smith, Stephanie <smith.stephane@epa.gov>; Spence, Sandra <Spence.Sandra@epa.gov>; Sutin, Elyana <Sutin.Elyana@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Varilek, Kimberly <Varilek.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Williams, Laura <williams.laura@epa.gov>; Wood, MelanieL <Wood.MelanieL@epa.gov>; Bielenberg, Ben <Bielenberg.Ben@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RICT Alert - Devolution Preparedness  
**Importance:** High

Good evening everyone,

As you have seen in the news, there is increased concern regarding potential threats of violence and threats to government facilities in relation to the approaching inauguration. There are no specific threats to the EPA at this time. The President has currently designated the threat level at a COGCON 4 (Federal executive branch government employees at their normal work locations. Maintain alternate facility and conduct periodic continuity readiness exercises. See Annex 16 of the attached plan) as of today. In the event the level of threat is raised we may need to prepare for HQ activating the Devolution Plan depending on the situation. With this email, we are asking each of you to familiarize yourself with the plan, review your Division specific documentation and shared sites you have discussed with your HQ counterparts. As we approach the holiday weekend and into next week, please be prepared for RICT activation in case there is a need.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Dee Rothery, Tina Artemis or David Dorian.

Thanks and take care, Dee

Dee Rothery  
Emergency Management Branch Chief  
US Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII  
Superfund and Emergency Management Division  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Mail Code 8SEMD-EM  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
(303)-312-6431 office  
(720)-557-2975 cell

<EPA HQ Devolution Base Plan 05-2011-v2 (1).pdf>